

U.S. rejects Iran's stand

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States called on Iran Monday to renounce state-sponsored terrorism, but a senior official said there were no signs its new leaders were prepared to do so. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler rejected Iran's insistence that release of Western hostages in Lebanon was linked to the United States unblocking Iranian assets frozen since 1979. "The hostage issue is a humanitarian one and is not linked to other issues," she said, responding to comments made Monday by Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani at his first news conference since taking office in July (See page 2). "The matter of Iranian assets is pending before the Iran-United States claims tribunal...there is no connection or linkage whatsoever with the hostage issue." Asked what Iran could do to improve relations with Washington, Tutwiler replied: "For starters they could release the hostages... they could renounce state-sponsored terrorism. These would be two good places to begin." In his news conference, Rafsanjani condemned hostage-taking as an "abominable act."

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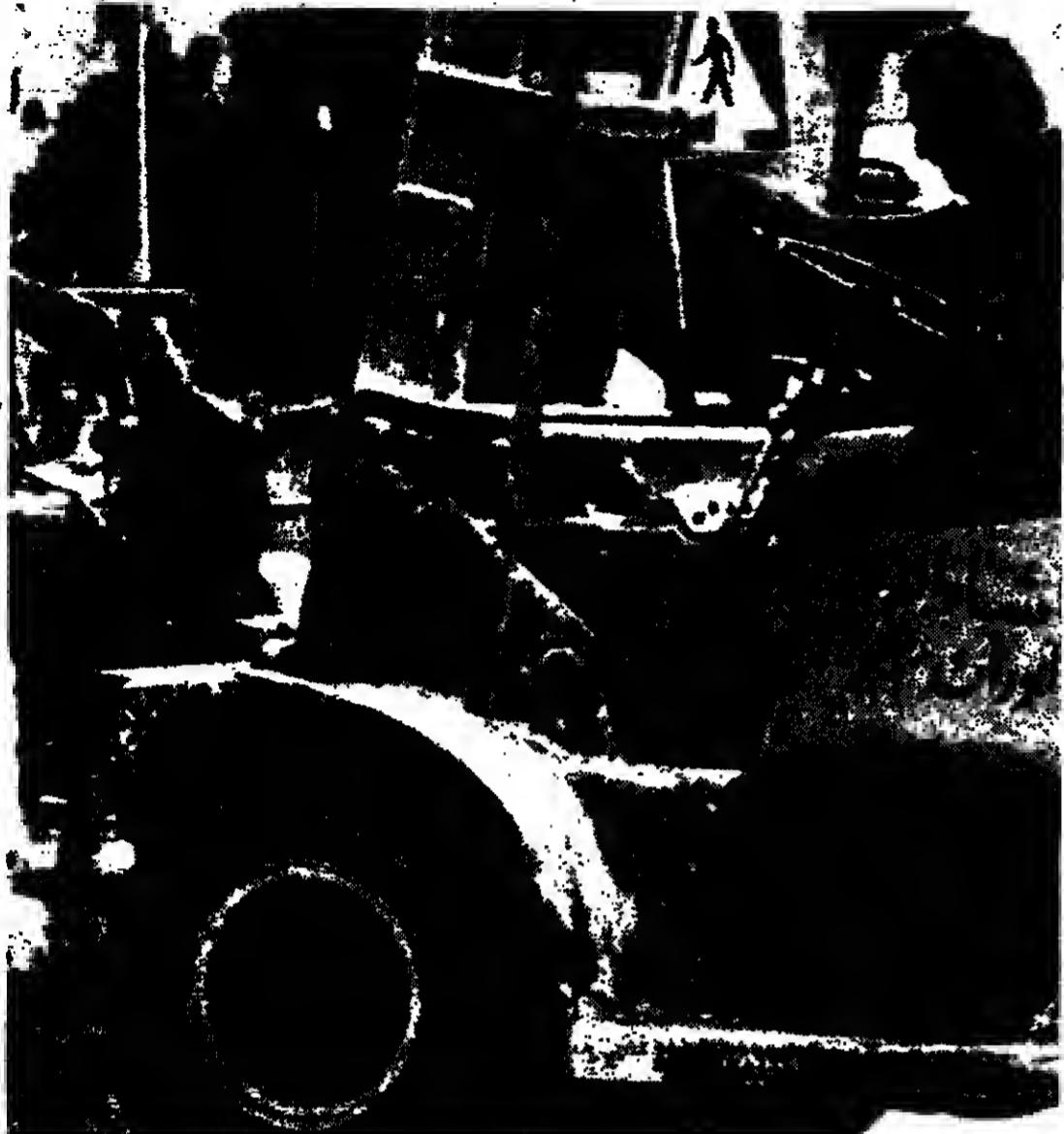
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Following orders from Israeli soldiers, an Arab fork-lift operator blocks off an alley in central

Nablus from which petrol bombs were hurled at an Israeli army patrol.

Palestinian shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed Mohammad Abu Libde, 19, and wounded at least six others Monday, reports said. The Israeli army confirmed that the youth was killed during a "military activity" at the West Bank refugee camp of Tulkarem and said it was checking further. The death brought to 61 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli gunfire in the 22-month uprising.

Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, wants police to bar ultra-nationalist Jews from praying near the site of what they see as an Israeli temple on the Haram Al Sharif, officials said. The "Temple Mount faithful"

say that demolishing Al Aqsa Mosque and building the temple will hasten the arrival of the Messiah.

Kollek's spokesman, Menachem Raboy, said the group's activities "escalate tension and damage the tender... relations between various segments of Jerusalem's population."

Just before the aborted cornerstone-laying ceremony, police fired tear-gas and rubber bullets at youths hurling stones on the other side of the walled Old City. Kollek said Palestinian fears that the zealots would enter the area sparked the demonstrations.

Trying to defuse tension that emerged last week, sides to the hardline leader said they now believed Israel could bridge differences with its close U.S. ally ahead of a White House visit by Shamir in November.

Shamir said a week ago Israel was not anxious to quarrel with the United States, "but if we must go to a confrontation on this issue, then we will stand firm until the end."

But the prime minister told reporters in parliament on Monday: "There are certain differences of opinion, not the gravest nor the deepest, and I am convinced it is certainly possible to overcome them."

"I think the disruptions in relations between Israel and the United States have been greatly exaggerated... we have had many differences in the past but we'll overcome them."

In West Germany, police in the southern city of Munich said 1,185 East Germans had arrived by car or bus in the past 24 hours after crossing Hungary's border with Austria.

Some 10,000 East Germans were when Budapest threw open its frontier on Sept. 11, since when the number of East Germans crossing the border each day has averaged around 500.

Trade union formed

Several hundred workers at an electronics plant outside East Berlin have formed East Germany's first independent trade union, a spokesman said Monday.

Roelf Boerger said the union's platform includes a demand for the right to strike, and he called on all 6,000 employees of the Wilhelm Pieck factory in Teltow to join the new labour movement. The factory is named after East Germany's first president.

He said the union, named "Reform," declared solidarity with newly founded opposition political groups in East Germany and called for a thorough restructuring of the Communist state's eco-

Egon Kress

Boerger's statement was distributed to Western news media on Monday in West Berlin.

The state-run ADN news agency made no immediate mention

of the declaration by the electronics workers, and the new leadership's attitude towards the Reform trade group was not immediately made clear.

Pro-democracy activists were

to hold another rally Monday night in Leipzig to press the new leadership for changes as the official news media printed several articles describing reform talks.

Lutheran church sources said the demonstration was planned to keep up pressure on the Communist Party.

Pro-reform marches have taken place in several East German cities since Krenz was named to succeed Honecker.

Tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets in Leipzig in early October in the biggest display of unrest since a 1953 uprising that was put down by Soviet tanks.

Commuting was further com-

BHIRUT (Agencies) — Christian leader and army chief Michel Aoun put his army on alert Monday and hinted he might dissolve parliament after it approved, without his consent, an accord designed to end Lebanon's civil war.

The accord, approved by a special session of the Lebanese parliament held in Saudi Arabia, suffered another jolt when the two main militias of Lebanon's 1.2 million-strong Shi'ite Muslim sect also rejected the Arab-brokered plan.

The army has been put on alert to cope with all eventualities. It's a precautionary measure," said a senior official at Aoun's command centre, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

All leave was cancelled and Aoun's 20,000 mainly Christian troops were ordered to stay in barracks, said the official, adding: "We're not going to war.

It's a defensive measure."

News of the alert came as

Aoun began wide-ranging

consultations with politicians,

intellectuals, industrialists,

bankers and militia leaders in the Christian enclave to discuss the Taif accord.

Aoun lashed out at the plan for

the second time in 12 hours as an

estimated 5,000 Christian supporters

demonstrated in front of his

residence at the shell-pocked

presidential palace.

They were mostly students.

Aoun had ordered schools and

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apparent move to bring as many

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"This is the day of choice,"

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"We don't find a substitute for

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It's not the right of anyone to

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against a people," said Prime

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negotiations in Taif.

They are due to endorse it

officially Tuesday in Jeddah.

But Aoun told hundreds of

supporters: "The fate of Lebanon

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sovereignty on Lebanese soil."

Aoun rejected the plan be-

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for the total and immediate

withdrawal of the Syrian army.

Diplomats said he was gamb-

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the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia to thwart moves to

immediate political reforms.

Two Muslim deputies, saying

they represented Jumblatt and

Nabil Berri, head of the Shi'ite

Amal militia, voted against the

plan in Saudi Arabia on the

grounds that it failed to ensure

immediate political reforms.

Shevardnadze denounces violation

MOSCOW (R) — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze admitted Monday that the Soviet Union had violated a 1972 superpower arms control pact by building a radar complex in Siberia. In a candid foreign policy statement to parliament, Shevardnadze also denounced Moscow's nine-year involvement in Afghanistan, saying it had "violated the norms of proper behaviour." It was the most stinging criticism by a senior official of the Soviet Union's military intervention in Afghanistan, which ended with the complete withdrawal of its troops last February. More than 13,000 Soviet servicemen lost their lives there. Shevardnadze suggested the Kremlin had known for some time that the radar station at Krasnoyarsk violated the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty before construction was started in October 1988. The United States announced last year that Moscow had agreed to remove parts of the station which Washington had for years denounced as a violation of the pact. The Americans had insisted the installation be dismantled before a pact on strategic weapons could be concluded.

Taif compromise in peril

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Arab papers welcome Lebanon pact, warn of Israeli reaction

NICOSIA (R) — Arab commentators Monday welcomed political reforms agreed by Lebanon's Christian and Muslim parliamentarians but warned Israel might try to block implementation.

Fifty-eight members of parliament, Lebanon's only remaining constitutional body after 14 years of civil war, Sunday agreed to an Arab League peace plan that would give the Muslim majority a bigger say in the Christian-dominated political system.

The long years of crisis in Lebanon have created confirmed beliefs amongst all rival parties that Israel has and will continue to be one of the main parties in the bloody conflict in Lebanon," Kuwait's Al Rai Al Aam said in

an editorial. "Israel will not be short of means to interfere with the aim of obstructing and is capable of complicating reconciliation through its agents who are cooperating with it," the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted the paper as saying.

Al Fair newspaper published in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates warned the pact will not satisfy the "only beneficiary of continued Lebanese division," the official daily Tishrin said.

"Putting the charter for national reconciliation into effect ... should not divert the attention of the Lebanese and all Arabs from Israel's destructive intentions and Zionist schemes in Lebanon," the paper said.

The commentary made no mention of army chief General Michel Aoun, who rejected the plan late Sunday.

But Syria's official press maintained its attack against Aoun, who is often described as an agent of Israel and Iraq.

The confirmed winner of the Taif meeting is Lebanon. The confirmed loser is Aoun and Israel and all those implementing Israeli plans in Lebanon," the official daily Tishrin said.

The Dubai-based Al Bayan said Lebanon's militia leaders should drop "narrow-minded calculations that are based on the language of bullets and explosions."

Saudi Arabia's newspaper Al Madina said the approval by the Lebanese deputies represented a "legitimate way to build a constructive political life based on understanding and respect."

Saudi newspaper Al Yom said the success of Saudi diplomacy in preparing the agreement that came after 23 days of tough negotiations in the Saudi Arabian hill resort of Taif proved that "only the Arabs are capable of resolving their differences."

Israel asks U.S. Jews to oppose 'genocide' motion

WASHINGTON (R) — Israel has asked influential American Jewish organisations to lobby against a Senate resolution to proclaim a national day of remembrance for the victims of the Armenian "genocide" early this century, Jewish sources said.

Sources at two Jewish groups, who asked that neither they nor their organisations be identified, said the request had placed them in a quandary since the natural inclination of American Jewry had been to support the resolution.

"As a people which was itself a victim of genocide, we feel natural sympathy for the Armenians. But Israel wants to foster its relations with Turkey, which it views with great importance," said one source.

One major Jewish-American organisation prepared a press release supporting the resolution but "it was killed at the last minute before being issued," one of the sources said.

Rafsanjani says U.S. must show goodwill before hostage action

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Monday condemned hostage-taking as an "inhuman act" but reiterated Tehran would help release Americans held in Lebanon only after Washington proved its goodwill.

Rafsanjani said Iran would use its influence to free U.S. hostages if the United States unblocked Iranian assets frozen since 1979 and helped locate Iranians who Tehran says were abducted by Falangists in Lebanon in 1982.

"We have no information about the situation of hostages in Lebanon and see no reason to get ourselves involved," he said in his first news conference since being elected president in July.

"And if we are to act on this some day, it will be in tandem with efforts to free our hostages in Lebanon, the Lebanese (hostages) in Israel and other hostages," Tehran Radio quoted him as saying.

Pressed for his views on kidnapping as a political act, Rafsan-

jani said: "Hostage-taking is an inhuman act. It has no political benefits and is wrong, whoever does it."

But he said the hostage-takers in Lebanon were reacting to oppression by Israel and the United States.

"These small groups are sometimes forced to take unwise action," Rafsanjani said. "They are like kids who suddenly burst into crying when their patience is over. You must find out who makes them cry."

Turkey containing Kurdish rebels

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Turkish commanders say they are containing a Kurdish insurgency near their eastern and southern borders. But after the costliest year so far for both sides the battle is a long way from being over.

"The reign of terror has been narrowed. So, with every passing year it is in favour of Turkey," said Hayri Kozakcoglu, governor supremo responsible for the 11 hardest hit provinces.

Fighting in sparsely-populated mountains began in mid-1984. Some 40,000 Turkish troops are

now pitted against an estimated 2,250 rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in an area about half the size of Italy.

The rebels — often called "shepherds by day and killers by night" — want an independent homeland. Some eight million Kurds live in Turkey, another nine million in neighbouring areas of Iraq and north west Iran.

Since March, an average of 70 people, including rebels and civilians, have been killed each month, more than twice the previous level of bloodshed. The

conflict has taken almost 2,000 lives in five years.

Officials say PKK recruits are mostly youths kidnapped and taken for training outside Turkey, but they acknowledge that rebel numbers have increased four-fold in three years.

"We say the PKK is not a liberation movement. The PKK is an instrument of enemy forces who do not want Turkey to develop, particularly this region," Kozakcoglu told foreign reporters in the regional city of Diyarbakir at the weekend.

The talks were being held in New York between the head of the Yemeni delegation to the United Nations, Abdullah Al Ashtal, and America's U.N. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. The next round was due to start in two weeks.

GCC wants Tehran to act on better ties

ABU DHABI (R) — The Arab states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) want Iran to match its words with practical action to improve relations, particularly with Saudi Arabia, a senior GCC official said Monday.

"Iran has improved relations with most GCC countries but there is still a weak point in its approach, which is its dispute with the Saudis," the GCC assistant secretary general for political affairs said in an interview.

GCC member Oman was mediating in an attempt to solve the dispute, said Ishaq Al Maskati said during a visit to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"If Iran wants to develop good relations with the GCC, it should do so with all member states. We do not want any distinction," said Maskati.

Maskati said the effects of the eight-year war and the lack of a stable peace had held back full development of the GCC but he was more optimistic about the future.

"The UAE and Oman have maintained good relations with Iran. Other GCC members Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar have improved their ties with Tehran since the end of the Iran-Iraq war last year.

But Riyadh, a strong supporter of Iraq during the war, cut diplomatic ties with Tehran in 1988 and relations have suffered several serious setbacks over the past few years.

"We can see an Iraqi insistence

on peace, coupled with good Iranian statements, especially from Rafsanjani. I personally rule out a fresh war," he said.

The UAE and Oman have maintained good relations with Iran. Other GCC members Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar have improved their ties with Tehran since the end of the Iran-Iraq war last year.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Vanuatu formally recognises PLO

POR VILA, Vanuatu (R) — Vanuatu has become the first South Pacific island state to formally recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), government officials in Port Vila said Monday. PLO's Australian-based representative Ali Kazak presented his credentials as ambassador of the "state of Palestine" to Vanuatu President Frederick Timakata at the weekend, they said. In a statement issued in Canberra, Kazak said Timakata had expressed the hope for an international peace conference to solve the problem of a Palestinian homeland. Vanuatu, formerly ruled jointly by Britain and France, follows what Prime Minister Walter Lini describes as an active, independent, Non-Aligned foreign policy. Port Vila, which maintains close links with Australia and Western countries, has set up formal ties with the Soviet Union, East Germany, Cuba and Vietnam in recent years.

Egypt jails 2 militants

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court has jailed two Muslim militants who killed a man for ignoring their demand that he switch his radio from music to readings of the Koran. After Bakr and Kamal Sayed Ali were sentenced to 10 years' hard labour for murdering a grocer in the Cairo district of Al Sahel in December 1987. He had been listening to a broadcast of songs by Umm Kalthoum, a singer who died 14 years ago but whose classical recordings are still popular in the Arab World. The court also acquitted eight Muslim fundamentalists of complicity in the murder. Two other defendants were killed in a clash with security forces when they tried to evade arrest in 1988.

Amal seizes 3 SLA militiamen

TYRE (AP) — The Syrian-backed Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia said Monday it captured three fighters of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in Israel's self-designated border "security zones." Amal produced the trio at a news conference in the southern port city of Tyre, which is outside the Israeli zone and the area policed by United Nations peacekeeping forces in South Lebanon. Amal said its gunmen were on a reconnaissance mission inside the zone when they came across the SLA militiamen. The three, all Syrians from the border village of Aita Al Shaab, identified themselves as Youssef Mohammad Rida, 18; Youssef Ali Saad, 21, and Nabil Moustafa Dakkouk, 19. They said they were on leave and were on a hunting trip in the Salham Valley, in the border enclave, when they were ambushed by Amal gunmen who found their SLA identity cards. They said they were recruited three months ago at the SLA barracks in Marjayoun, the main town in the security zone.

Libya to mourn for victims of colonialism

NICOSIA (R) — Libya will cut itself off from the rest of the world next Thursday to hold a day of mourning for victims of Italian colonialism, the official Libyan News Agency (JANA) announced Sunday. All international transport and communications systems will be halted to mark "the painful memory of Italian colonialism on Libya and its people," JANA quoted sources in the General People's Committee for Communication and Navigation as saying. Italy invaded Libya, then part of the Ottoman Empire, in October 1911 and ruled the country until its defeat in World War II. Libya became independent in 1951 under King Idris, who was overthrown in 1969 by revolutionary leader Muammar Qaddafi.

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15:30 Korean Programme review

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17:35 Sea Hunt

18:00 News summary in Arabic

18:30 Local programme

19:10 Agricultural programme

19:45 Arabic Programme review

21:30 Arabic series

21:45 Local programme

23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

12:00 Documentary

19:00 News in French

19:15 Anjoud 'Hai En Jordanie

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Paul Daniel's Magic Show

21:15 Superstars

22:00 News in English

22:30 News in Arabic

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish

Tel: 610740, 683262

Church of the Annunciation Tel:

637440.

St. George Church

Society on History of Science chalks projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Society on the History of Science (JSHS) held its first constituent assembly meeting here Monday and elected Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, as board chairman and other officials, including deputy chairman, treasurer and members, and formed two standing committees on public relations and cultural affairs.

A statement issued by the JSHS, which was approved by the minister of interior, said the society aims at focusing Jordanian public attention on the history of sciences and promoting research work in science and scientific heritage. The society will dedi-

cate its efforts to projecting the Arab Nation's contributions to world science over the ages and to bolstering ties between Arab and international organisations concerned with scientific fields. This will be done, according to the statement, through seminars, lectures and conferences.

The statement said that the society would publish material related to the history of science and take part in international conferences, organise scientific trips, establish a specialised library and museum, conduct studies.

The statement said that the society would commence activities early next year.



Election scene in Zarqa

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES TO SABBATHS: His Majesty King Hussein has delegated Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin to convey condolences to Al Sabbath family on the death of the mother of Roman Catholic Patriarch Michel Sabbath. (Petra)

SCOUT TEAM IN CAIRO: A Jordanian scout delegation arrived in Cairo Monday to take part in celebrations marking the inauguration of an international Arab scouts centre Tuesday. The delegation is led by Asem Ghosheh, secretary general of the Ministry of Youth and who represents Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Jordanian Scout and Girl Guide Association.

IRAQI EXHIBITION: An Iraqi book exhibition was opened here for 15 days by Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail. On display for 60,000 books dealing with science, social studies, literary work and history.

UNRWA-UDD MEETING: A delegation of United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) employees in the occupied Arab territories Monday visited the Urban Development Department (UDD) and was briefed on the development of residential areas in Amman and Aqaba. The delegation was also briefed on the department's role in community development. (Petra)

Arab countries urged to adopt education reforms

AMMAN (J.T.) — An Arab League-sponsored meeting has urged concerned educational authorities in the Arab World to undertake steps conducive to the development of education and training at all levels.

The meeting, which was attended by experts in formal and informal education and educational management, urged the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) to sponsor arabisation of educational terms, specially those used by international organisations for the benefit of Arab students and Arab organisations.

The meeting, which concluded here Monday, also recommended the issuance of an Arab lexicon containing all basic and essential educational terms.

The recommendations stressed the importance of planning formal and informal education and for complete coordination among various concerned authorities in the Arab World.

The participants emphasised

the importance of statistics for planning and decision-making in the field of education and urged concerned authorities to give due attention to those employed in the regular and formal education sector.

The recommendations included a call on the Arab League and Arab governments to give proper attention to developing educational techniques and increase the use of documentary films, television programmes and other visual aids. They called for greater attention for vocational training and adult education.

Furthermore, the participants urged the Arab League and Arab countries to boost educational programmes beamed to the occupied Arab territories so as to counter Israel's attempts at distorting the Arabic language and Arab history and culture.

The participants proposed the formation of a special national corporation to supervise planning of programmes on informal education and to establish a teachers training centre.

UNRWA school moves to new building in Mafraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) schoolchildren at Mafraq Monday moved to a new building which was opened by Mr. El-Saaf, director of UNRWA affairs in Jordan.

The new building was especially constructed to be leased to UNRWA and was designed according to UNRWA specifications. It consists of 10 classrooms, two administrative offices and a room for multipurpose activities, in addition to a playground, a shading shed and other facilities.

The building accommodates two schools; one for boys and one for girls operating double shift. The two schools provide elementary and preparatory education for 275 boys and 271 girls catered for by 20 female and male teachers.

Present at the ceremony were senior UNRWA officials and a number of Mafraq refugees.

UNRWA has in Jordan 197 schools run by some 3,500 teachers to provide nine years of schooling for about 134,000 refugee children.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Fund Minni and 'Ammar Khannasah at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Discovered pictures in East Jerusalem" by Austrian artist Eva Pätz at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian plastic artist Basma Butonni at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Jordanian amateur artists exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Schohars and Revolution" at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

LECTURES

- ★ A lecture in Arabic, entitled "The Image of European Women in Arabic Literature" by Prof. Dr. Krzysztof Wojtowycz-Wicki at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ A lecture entitled "Um Qais-Gadara — The Monumental Gate" by Dr. Adolf Hoffmann at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

ACC to nominate Jordan to ILO

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Labour from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have agreed to nominate Jordan to the board of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and decided to pursue efforts designed to coordinate Arab countries stands at international meetings.

Bedour added the ministers reviewed arrangement for holding a general Arab labour conference by the end of March and agreed on a set of principles to coordinate the ACC countries position at that meeting.

Dajani to ACC post

Ali Dajani, advisor at the Amman Chamber of Industry, has been nominated to the post of secretary general of the Higher Council of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the ACC countries. The higher council's decision has been taken in appreciation for Dajani's efforts to attain the highest level of coordination and cooperation among the ACC chambers of industry.

SOS Village plans parade to mark King's birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The SOS Children's Village in the town of Tareq near Amman will launch its first activity next month with an open festive march from the village to the Marriott Hotel in Amman to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday Nov. 14.

The event will involve the village children who are cared for by foster mothers at nine different homes in the village established by the Austria-based International Children's Villages Association SOS, organisers said Monday.

The children will first move a huge stone ball from the entrance of the village in a symbol of unity and a sign of their cooperation and friendship before the march will proceed towards Amman.

The march according to the organisers, will follow the Am Ghazal road past the Physical Education College and the Jamal Abdul Nasser Square to the hotel. The children would carry banners, posters and balloons along the way and present a performance at the hotel.

The SOS Children's Village, established in May 1987, is situated on 33 dunums of land west of Amman and comprises nine family homes, a bakery, a supermarket, staff and guest quarters and a kindergarten, which opened its doors in 1986.

Jordan Times

جريدة الأردن

Ministry destroys 12,000 tonnes of bad food

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministry of Supply inspectors last month seized and destroyed 12,000 tonnes of foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption, a ministry official said Monday.

Other unspecified quantities of foodstuffs were also seized by inspectors, working in cooperation with local council and the ministry, the official was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"It has been noticed lately that foodstuffs unfit for human consumption are being increasing discovered by the authorities," the official, who was not named, was quoted as saying by Petra. He attributed the increase in the case of "unorthodox means of storage" of food products.

The official said many citizens and merchants were in the habit of hoarding large quantities of goods and food supplies without justification. Lack of proper knowledge of storage methods and ways to keep foodstuffs in good condition results in the waste of a good part of such goods and foodstuffs, the official added.

He appealed to the citizens to store limited quantities of food supplies sufficient for short-term needs and assured the public that the Ministry of Supply had enough quantities of basic food commodities in its warehouses.



The anatomic solution.

RADO DiaStar



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation, established 1975.

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Editorial Director:

RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:

DR. RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:

DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAJ JO

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Give it a chance

THE Taif breakthrough on efforts to end the Lebanese strife is a triumph of reason and pragmatism over blind factional traits that have devastated Lebanon in the past decade and half. It is also a triumph for collective Arab diplomacy in general and Saudi diplomacy in particular over all efforts to internationalise the conflict. There are, of course, still pockets of opposition to the painstakingly reached agreement, notably from General Michel Aoun who views the amended Arab League formula as a threat to Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity. But to all those Lebanese leaders, whether from the east or west side of Beirut, who persist in calling for subjective perfections in the quest for an equitable and just solution to Lebanon's 15 years of bloodshed and destruction and still punch holes in the Taif compromise formula, one can only say that the situation in Lebanon defies such an objective and that the only viable settlement for that country's prolonged tragedies is the one that can be found in the context of reasonable accommodation and compromise between many conflicting demands.

In more ways than one, the Taif achievement offers exactly the necessary consensus on the basis of give and take that was successfully engineered by last minute Saudi mediation. Moreover, the Taif compromise heralds the beginning of new hope for Lebanon on the basis of territorial unity of the country. It behoves Aoun and all the others who still voice disagreement with the Taif consensus to drop their provincial and parochial perspectives in favour of the general good and welfare of their country. The alternative to this wise course would be a sure prescription for the defeat of the only operational settlement ever conceived in the past many years of war and destruction. And the fact that practically all Lebanese parliamentarians representing various and competing factions have agreed to put the overall Lebanese interest above their own interests should serve as an impetus to the remaining lone voices that still in effect preach continued internecine bloodbaths till there is no Lebanon or Lebanese people left.

If the principal concern of General Aoun is the Syrian military presence in Lebanon, he would be well-advised to honour the Taif agreement because it offers the only way to deal with that situation in an amicable and functional manner. And if the anxieties of the other objectors to the Taif agreement stem from its imperfection, then they would also be better advised to note that modernising Lebanon is a dynamic and continuing process that will take long years and perhaps generations. It can only be achieved by creating confidence building blocks along the long tortuous way leading to it. The meaningful progress registered already in that direction as reflected in the Taif agreement is a good omen of more progress to come in the future. Meanwhile, all Lebanese must take notice that healing old wounds and rectifying archaic systems and infrastructure in Lebanon is a very fragile process that needs to be nursed carefully and gently all along the way to the bright future that is awaiting Lebanon and the Lebanese people. But at this critical juncture all truly concerned parties must salute the great miracle that was born in Taif and thank all the positive forces that worked diligently for it.

Bedouin and the Election Law

By Faroq Kilani

A CONTROVERSY arose lately over the question of barring citizens from the badia region of Jordan from running for elections as candidates representing other than constituencies designated to their respective tribal areas. Several court cases have been filed, contesting the Ministry of Interior's decision barring such candidacies.

In fact, there is no law in Jordan that legally prevents any citizens from nominating himself for parliamentary election in other constituencies. Indeed, the Jordanian Constitution of 1952, unlike previous constitutions, has no provisions for the representation of the minorities and communities. Article 25 of the Constitution clearly states that the legislative council should group representatives elected under the terms of the election law, which should take into account a fair representation of minorities in the Kingdom. Article 33 of the 1946 constitution states that the house of deputies should consist of representatives elected in accordance with the election law and should take into account the fair representation of all minorities. But the present constitution has omitted this rule and does not provide for any provisions concerning minorities or communities. Yet, the 1986 Election Law took into account the representation of minorities contrary to the wishes of the constitutional legislators. Therefore, all provisions connected with the representation and contained in the Election Law are null and void and run contrary to the legislators' will.

Furthermore, Article 67 of the 1952 constitution states that the Lower House of Parliament shall consist of deputies elected through secret ballot and that measures shall be taken to safeguard the election process, the right of candidates to monitor election procedures and punish those tampering with the electors' decision.

Article 19 of the 1986 Election Law states that any Jordanian citizen has the right to nominate himself as candidate for parliament in one Jordanian constituency.

This provision allows candidates to nominate themselves but did not stipulate that a candidate should run for a specific constituency where he was originally registered in terms of his clan. Therefore, a Salhi can nominate himself to run in Amman and vice versa.

Moreover, constitutionally speaking, a parliament deputy is supposed to represent the whole country and not a particular constituency or clan or a tribal group. He is committed to defend public interest and the rights of all people anywhere and in any government.

Article 18 of the 1986 Election Law states that to run for elections a candidate should be Jordanian registered in the voters lists, above 30 years of age, should not be convicted or imprisoned or affiliated to an illegal political party, and should not be affiliated to any government department or a relative of the King. This article did not specify that a bedouin candidate should run for a badia constituency.

In addition, the 1986 Election Law did not regard the bedouin as a minority or a factor.

The law considered only the Christians, the Shishans and Circassians as communities and minorities, but did not regard the bedouin as a community or a minority but rather citizens on equal footing with the rest of the people of Jordan. The law assigned seats for the bedouin in the Lower House of Parliament not because they belong to a community but because the badia region was considered as a constituency inhabited by tribal nomads or bedouins.



Frederik W. de Klerk limits use of force by South African troops.

Winnie Mandela returns to forefront

By Greg Myre
The Associated Press

SOWETO, South Africa — The government banned her, the anti-apartheid movement excommunicated her and potential legal battles cloud her future. But Winnie Mandela has survived and is reclaiming her role as one of the most visible symbols of black resistance against white rule. Her followers often referred to her as "mother of the nation."

Mrs. Mandela, wife of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, vanished from public view in February when leading anti-apartheid groups repudiated her and accused her of self-appointed bodyguards of waging "a reign of terror."

In recent weeks, however, Mrs. Mandela has resurfaced with high-profile appearances at several opposition rallies. The relentless speculation about her husband's release, expected within several months, keeps her at the centre of the political stage.

"She is blunt, rash, emotional and speaks from the heart — that is why people respond to her and why she is controversial," said Fatima Meer, author of a best-selling biography on Nelson Mandela.

"Even during the crisis, Winnie had the support and loyalty of many, many people," Mrs. Meer said in an interview. "She will remain highly visible and widely respected."

When six of Mandela's closest ANC colleagues were freed from prison Oct. 15, Mrs. Mandela accommodated one of them, Wilson Mkhwayi, at her home in Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg.

She appeared that day at a rally for the freed prisoners. She prepared to sit alongside them at a news conference, but activists who organised the meeting pointedly redirected her to a seat behind the ANC leaders, among the families of the released men.

The releases are widely seen as a trial run for freeing Mandela, 71, the country's best known black leader. His release is considered necessary before black leaders — even relatively conservative ones — will negotiate with the white-led government.

Mandela currently lives in a suburban-style ranch house on a prison farm outside Cape Town. In recent months, he has met several times with his wife as well as anti-apartheid leaders who denounced her.

Mandela reportedly told his wife not to talk to the press, and she remained silent for several months, but has begun to speak out again.

"I am of no significance to anybody as an individual," she told Tribune magazine. "To attack me is to attack Mandela, to attack the ANC."

There has been no formal public reconciliation between Mrs. Mandela and the anti-apartheid movement, but the overt criticism of her has stopped.

One activist who requested anonymity said anti-apartheid groups are attempting to resolve their disputes with Mrs. Mandela before her husband is released, "but several problems remain." He declined to elaborate.

Several anti-apartheid leaders, including ones who earlier denounced Mrs. Mandela for "violating human rights in the name of the struggle against apartheid," refused recently to speak about her on the record.

Apartheid is the name for South Africa's policies of racial segregation.

The ANC has expressed concern about some of Mrs. Mandela's statements, and spokesman

Tom Sebina, based in Lusaka, Zambia, noted she has no formal position in the organisation. But he added that Mrs. Mandela "remains an important part of the struggle."

Mrs. Mandela's beauty, provocative statements and courageous defiance of government restrictions made her one of the most visible symbols of black resistance against white rule. Her followers often referred to her as "mother of the nation."

She married Mandela in 1958, when she was a 24-year-old social worker and he was a 40-year-old ANC leader. Four years later, he was arrested. He has been imprisoned since February, in custody since February, have pleaded innocent. No trial date has been set.

Anti-apartheid groups said in February they were "outraged at Mrs. Mandela's complicity in the abductions and assault of Stompie."

She has denied any wrongdoing, Police Maj. Gen. Jaap Joubert, who headed the investigation, declined to comment when asked if she might be charged.

The death of Seipei was one of several controversies that have dogged Mrs. Mandela since she unilaterally lifted her police banning order in 1985.

At a rally in 1986, she endorsed the use of "necklace" killings, when militant activists set on fire gasoline-soaked tires around the necks of suspected government collaborators.

The government then lifted the ban on quoting Mrs. Mandela in the apparent belief she would do more harm to her reputation by speaking out than by being restricted.

In 1987, she was sharply criticised for building a mansion on a hillside in Soweto, surrounded by tiny, overcrowded matchbox houses. Mandela reportedly has told his wife not to move into it.

The Mandela's small rented home was burned in a July 1988 arson attack by Soweto youths, fueling with the soccer club. Community leaders urged Mrs. Mandela to abandon the team, but she ignored their advice.

After every controversy, Winnie Mandela has come back.

"No one can take away her contributions," said Mrs. Meer. "History will never write her out of what is happening here."

OPEN FORUM

A reminder

FOR MANY years now, I have been urging the many heads of diplomatic missions in Amman to bring to our country works of art so that the young artists of Jordan could have access to them, to see, appreciate and learn. I have been overwhelmed lately with the prints of Picasso, Braque, Pollock etc, which were kindly exhibited for us by the French Embassy, and the French Cultural Centre. The Italians have also presented us with an exhibition of collages of the sketches of 16th century Roman masters, including Michelangelo, Raphael and Carraci. This was done as part of the cultural exchange programme with the Ministry of Culture. This cultural effort obviously calls for many participants, on both sides, to collaborate in making arrangements for such exhibitions. Yet when people went to see it, the Italian exhibition for example, they found that it was transferred to another hall with no sign as to its whereabouts.

I would like to ask the responsible people why such a coveted exhibition of great masters, costing \$60,000 in insurance money alone, would be transferred into a gymnasium that serves as corridor to the offices of that institution, putting the works at high risk? Why was there no stand prepared, as requested, for the large portfolio that explains the life and times of the artists? The valuable catalogues that was prepared by Almar, printed with care on beautiful paper was to be distributed freely to the public, but there was no trace of it, since it lay within a desk somewhere.

I want to remind the people responsible, that much effort and money was put into this project to serve our country and our people. And those who serve as intermediaries should take their jobs seriously and realise that presenting such exhibitions is a noble gesture on the part of foreign countries that we should accept graciously. We are hungry for knowledge; we wait impatiently for occasions like these. Therefore, I would ask the authorities to please employ compatible people who could see the value, aesthetic and economic, of such functions and to act accordingly. I feel obliged to apologise to the Italian Embassy and hope that the next time around, many will share in the noble responsibility of respecting and protecting works of art.

Nelly Lameh

Palestinians defy Israeli tax collections

By Ian Black

NADER Qumsiyeh was looking gloomily as he surveyed the dusty carpentry workshop after the Israeli left. His three best electric saws and planes had just been loaded onto a removal van by the tax collectors, but he was still defiant.

"We don't know yet whether it was because of income tax or VAT," Mr. Qumsiyeh sighed, "but we haven't paid any since the beginning of the intifada and we won't pay now. We can manage without the machines but this is not our government. Everyone in Beit Sahour believes this."

The dismal scene in the Qumsiyeh carpentry shop has been replayed dozens of times in the past few weeks as the Israelis continue their campaign to crush a West Bank town whose tax revolt has become a potent symbol of resistance to the occupation.

Hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of goods — including manufacturing equipment, domestic appliances, cash and jewellery — have been carted off by Israeli bulldozers escorted by armed soldiers.

Beit Sahour, a neat and relatively prosperous town of 12,000 in the "Christian triangle" centring on Bethlehem, has been singled out for economic punishment by the authorities in a controversial operation that now appears to be intensifying.

Anti-apartheid groups said in February they were "outraged at Mrs. Mandela's complicity in the abductions and assault of Stompie."

She has denied any wrongdoing, Police Maj. Gen. Jaap Joubert, who headed the investigation, declined to comment when asked if she might be charged.

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After every controversy, Winnie Mandela has come back.

"No one can take away her contributions," said Mrs. Meer. "History will never write her out of what is happening here."

as a headquarters for the belliffs and their guards.

HO in Bethlehem and later taken to the police station, where the officer let us off with a friendly warning.

The latest attempt to crush the intifada shows no sign of being any more successful than the other punishments that the Israeli authorities have been using in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the past 22 months.

The people of Beit Sahour live in the streets and watch anxiously from the Israeli convoys set out from Camp Asaf. Many tell stories of brutal searches and of outright theft by the taxmen, and, to add insult to injury, of the porters who demand baksheesh (tribes) for shifting the confiscated goods.

The pastoral tranquility of the town, with its solid red-roofed stone villas, well-tended gardens and picturesque churches, is a far cry from the dark alleys of the Nahrus casbah or the warren-like refugee camps of Gaza. But the tax revolt is Beit Sahour's proud contribution to the uprising.

Earlier this week one Palestinian was sentenced to a \$2,000 fine or six months in jail for failure to submit VAT forms. Three others will stand trial for similar offences. Several people are reported by the Israelis to have started paying their debts.

Some may well give in under pressure, but the majority, like Nader Qumsiyeh, will probably carry on.

"Taxes are paid by people to their own legitimate political bodies," a leaflet explained when the Israeli raids began. "The services provided to the Palestinians are opening new jails and building new settlements" — The Guardian.

By Michael Putzel
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev moved to assert tighter control over the Soviet press last week with a left-right combination that stunned both Communist hard-liners and proponents of greater freedom.

The manoeuvre showed that the press in this country, freewheeling as it has become in four heady years of glasnost, still is not free and serves at the behest of the country's leaders.

The newspapers are informative, unpredictable, critical, even testy, but their editors can't always do what they want.

At a meeting with editors of major publications, whom Gorbachev has summoned periodically for pep talks on press freedom, he calls his reform programme, the president rebuked the mass media for stirring public passions at a time of great uncertainty.

Beyond that, few specifics are known about what Gorbachev said in the two-hour meeting, another sign the leadership still controls what can be reported.

Pravda, the Communist Party daily newspaper, normally would have printed a full text of Gorbachev's remarks a few days later without comment, but it carried nothing about the proceedings. Nor did the official TASS news agency or the other national dailies that traditionally have been the people's main source of information about their rulers and the world beyond.

Many of the early — and most inflammatory — accounts of the session came from Soviet journalists who weren't present, but had been briefed by their bosses. Under the cloak of anonymity and in the more casual climate spawned by glasnost, or openness, dismayed Soviet journalists described to their Western colleagues what they regarded as an assault on the gaols they so recently have made.

Gorbachev reportedly called for the resignation of the editor of Arguments and Facts, Vladislav A. Starkov, who has led his weekly in little more than a year from a recorder of social statistics circulated only among party members to a breezily written tabloid that has soared in circulation.

Magic from a tree

By Philippa Neave

PARIS — The 20th century is just beginning to discover the amazing properties of an ancient oil, product of a tree. Tea tree oil, as it is called, is gaining international recognition as one of nature's offerings toward health and beauty, and it is now found in a variety of products ranging from skin creams to laundry soap.

Known to Australia's native aborigines for thousands of years, the tea tree does not produce tea, as one might expect, but rather an essential oil prized for its capacity to heal and disinfect. The tree got its name because early settlers in Australia, desperate for a hot drink, brewed the leaves of what is scientifically known as *Melaleuca Alternifolia*.

After decades of neglect by the modern cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries, the oil of the tea tree has captured the imagination of entrepreneurs who believe that exploiting its natural and unique properties could be the answer to many skin complaints. One man who has discovered the commercial possibilities of tea tree oil is 59-year-old Dr. Jake Vromen, originally from Holland and a resident of Australia for the past 12 years. Vromen has studied the tree's origins and properties thoroughly and has launched a successful range of beauty-care and healing products sold mostly in health-food stores all over Australia.

The eclectic Vromen, who has worked in different trades and in many parts of the world, says that tea tree oil is a penetrating antiseptic and is one of the broadest-

spectrum fungicides known. It does not attack healthy cells, and is milder than many antiseptic products.

Vromen, who has dedicated the past eight years to the study of the oil, developed the 22-product line himself and markets it under the name "Australian Melaleuca."

The aborigines press the leaves to extract the oil which they use to cure anything from insect bites to wounds and to prevent infections in the most remarkable way, he explains in an interview during a business trip to Paris. Knowledge of the tree's properties was passed down through generations of aborigines who live in the bush in remote parts of Australia, but its healing properties were soon forgotten by foreign settlers. Tea tree oil was ignored until the 1930s, when the then-curator of the Technological Museum in Sydney took an interest in it. His work was continued by other prominent medical researchers, who without exception concluded that tea tree oil possessed remarkable properties.

"During the war," says Vromen, referring to World War II, "it was part of the Australian soldier's kit. But soon after, with the advent of synthetic disinfectants, people lost interest in natural products and tea tree oil all but disappeared."

Recognition

With the new interest in natural and biological products that has swept from America to Europe and now to Japan, tea tree oil seems on the verge of well-deserved recognition. Popu-

lar with a growing number of health-conscious consumers, the fragrant, pale-yellow oil is in high demand, with the result that prices shot up from U.S. \$30 for a kilo a few years ago to \$120 today.

When the price of his raw material skyrocketed, Vromen realised that his range of products would become prohibitively expensive to make. Then he heard that a tea tree plantation was for sale in the New South Wales region: 400 acres of land, 100 of which were already planted. Impulsive and passionate about his work, the mildly eccentric Vromen, who looks the part of the mad professor with his flowing grey beard and hair, did not hesitate. He immediately obtained a loan and bought the plantation. The tea tree — or, more precisely, the *Melaleuca Alternifolia* species in the family that produces the precious oil — is indigenous only to the north-east coastal region of New South Wales. Vromen's plantation in this region, located some 450 kilometres north of Sydney, is, he proudly claims, the only plantation in the country that is not susceptible to flooding. "The tea tree grows in fairly wet, marshy land, and most of the other plantations have been flooded two or three times already this year. The plant is hardy so it is resistant, but floods make the trees inaccessible and therefore impossible to harvest," Vromen says.

Under normal conditions, the fast-growing, short, paper-barked tree can be harvested two or three times a year. Its small branches with their tiny leaves that

look like soft pine needles are crushed and boiled in water in large vats called bush stills. Each still can take up to 1,200 kilograms of the small branches, which, when boiled, release the oil into the water. When the mixture is cooled, the water and oil separate in what is a very simple distillation process.

Vromen is working on finding ways to augment the oil yield by improving the distillation method. "In theory, one should get up to 3.5 per cent of oil out of the leaf, but in practice, we only get about 2 per cent," he says. "Most commercial plantations actually get only 1 per cent."

Part of the reason for Vromen's recent visit to Europe was to confer with a Dutch engineer in Amsterdam with whom he has worked on several other projects. Vromen is hoping that the engineer will have some suggestions as to production methods. Says Vromen of his long-time engineer friend: "He understands my ideas and works them out in machines."

Solar-controlled irrigation system

Already Vromen is using unusual techniques on his plantation: One is a solar-controlled irrigation system that automatically waters the trees as soon as sensors in the system note that the soil is too dry.

In the nursery where he says that he has one million seedlings ready for the planting, Vromen is studying with the Australian Department of Agriculture ways to breed the plant to obtain specific

results: "Tea tree oil can contain up to 10 per cent or more of what is called cineole. This gives a strong camphor-like smell, and cineole (which makes up about 50 per cent of eucalyptus oil) is irritating on the skin. Oil with even 10 per cent of cineole is too strong for cosmetic purposes, so we are working on breeding seedlings which produce only 4 per cent."

Sandalwood oil can also act as a disinfecting agent, Vromen says, but the problem is that it's the bark that must be harvested, which causes the tree to die.

Beauty care

Focusing on tea tree oil, Vromen has developed a wide range of products: shampoo, hair conditioner, moisturizer, shaving cream, face cleanser, antiseptic cream, muscle relaxant cream, insect repellent and sun screen, all of which contain different concentrations of the oil. While some of his products are for beauty care, others are strictly medical.

Mixing tea tree oil with a wide range of other essential oils such as mint, rosemary and lavender, Vromen, who has created all the recipes himself, has sought to enhance the unique properties of "his" oil. "I combine it with other essential oils, using them in the right quantities so they actually do something," he explains. His standards are exacting: to obtain essential oils that are pure enough, he imports the citronella, mint and spearmint oils from China, while the rosemary comes from Tunisia and the



Known to Australia's Aborigines for thousands of years, the properties of tea tree oil are being discovered by the modern world.

lavender from France.

Some of the products were created out of necessity. "My grandson was suffering from terrible, recurring athlete's foot (a skin fungus that causes rashes and itching on the feet and between the toes), so I developed a balm based on tea tree oil, and in three days it had completely cleared up," he recalls.

He is also especially proud of his shaving cream: "It is used as a shaving foam but is sooth and antiseptic, so there are no after-shave rashes." Products especially appreciated by women include a massage and body cream to be applied after waxing their legs and which prevents skin redness

or irritation.

Added to laundry soap, tea tree oil can replace the environmentally dangerous phosphates present in most detergents. Vromen, who worked for many years in the textile industry, says he has invented an effective and biodegradable washing liquid for clothes. Originally developed as a conditioner for silk and wool, the laundry soap is said to condition fibres and leave clothes soft and easy to iron.

"I invented this partly as a matter of self-interest," Vromen quips. "I am very lazy and hate ironing, and with this washing liquid, it is hardly necessary, quite a good point with the Au-

stralian climate — we often have to change clothes several times a day!"

Vromen is also marketing a dishwashing liquid, and now under study is a range of pet-care products in which tea tree oil acts as an insect and flea repellent.

Although the benefits of tea tree oil are widely recognised, modern science has yet to discover how the "magic" works. Clinical and chemical studies are under way to identify its 48 components, but the aborigines' healing oil is likely to remain a mystery for some time to come.

Vromen and many others are content simply to trust in nature. — *World News Link*.

New Woody Allen film is serious story of murder

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuter

NEW YORK — Actor Martin Landau welcomes a visitor to his hotel suite looking very much like a man who is about to be hailed by the critics for getting away with murder.

Landau, a blue-eyed veteran of more villain roles than he cares to recall, plays a doctor who gets away with murder in Woody

Allen's latest film, "Crimes and Misdemeanors."

It's a fine-tuned performance that dominates the screen and is far from some one-dimensional roles of his past. At an age which he refuses to divulge for career reasons — he is in his 50s — Landau is becoming a star.

The big question about "crimes and misdemeanors" is not about Landau's sympathetic performance as a rich doctor who has a

bothersome lover rubbed out. It is whether the critics and the public will stand for a Woody Allen film that asks where God is when a man murders.

Even in the confused moral climate of the 1980s there are some things viewers might find objectionable.

Finding a character like Landau's may be one. Finding out that people can survive their most horrible deeds may be another.

Having to sit through a serious Woody Allen film could be a third.

Film critics still swap tales of the trouble Charlie Chaplin got into when he made a film about a modern-day bluebeard who, despite a proclivity for killing women, was a very nice person.

They also caution that as he grows older, Allen seems to be revealing a dark side that poses uncomfortable questions to an

audience that seeks out his films for laughter's sake.

As for Landau, he has come into his own decades after he entered acting school with Steve McQueen, was friends with James Dean, dated Marilyn Monroe and had his best scenes in Elizabeth Taylor's "Cleopatra" left on the cutting-room floor.

Although known as one of Hollywood's best acting teachers — Jack Nicholson is one star pupil

— Landau is mostly remembered by Americans as the chief spy in the "Mission Impossible" television series and for dozens of villain roles, including the chilling Leonard in Alfred Hitchcock's "North by Northwest."

He's been everything but a star.

"I'm ready," he said, knocking Woody in his hotel room, just a few days before "Crimes and Misdemeanors" was to open.

Time to work...

Time to relax.



On Time.

The business day, and another business trip that means pressure and making every minute count. So I just want to arrive on time and in good shape, ready for that vital meeting.

Royal Jordanian's new Business Class means a smooth, comfortable flight with excellent service, wide seats and traditional Jordanian hospitality.

Now, I relax and enjoy the flight — on Royal Jordanian's new Business Class.

BUSINESS
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CLAS

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LIMA • LONDON • MADRID • MONTREAL • MOSCOW • NEW YORK • PARIS • RIYADH • ROME • SAMOA • SINGAPORE • TRIPOLI • TIRANA • VIENNA

Iranian riyal remains fragile despite government intervention

DUBAI (R) — Iran, facing renewed weakness in the value of its riyal, is learning the hard way that intervention in currency markets is not a long-term solution to its economic woes, Western bankers and Iranian economists say.

Tehran's central bank this month made its first attempt in years at using monetary weapons to sort out the fundamental economic problems sparked by a blackmarket exchange rate that at times reached 20 times the official rate.

But Iranian economists and Western bankers in the Gulf say the bank's use of its limited hard currency reserves, estimated at between \$5 to \$7 billion, to bring down the rate cannot last.

"It's a brave try but what they really need is a coherent credit and investment policy, and above all a coherent political agenda to get back on economic track," said

one Western banker.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, backed by his new, monetarist-minded Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh, has said the vast difference between official and blackmarket rates was at the root of Iran's economic ills.

In an attempt to cut the differential, the central bank has for the past week set a new daily rate at which state-affiliated bodies can buy foreign exchange for overseas transactions.

The special rate has so far been at 1,000 riyals to the dollar, compared with the normal official rate of only 72.

The immediate effect was to

shake out speculators looking for a further riyal decline and the blackmarket rate came very close to 1,000 to the dollar, Iranian dealers said.

Some dealers thought the central bank could gradually lower this "intervention" rate as time went by.

But in the past few days, the blackmarket riyal has started to decline again, said dealers in the important offshore Iranian-trading centre of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Economists say the most fundamental reason behind the decline is that the blackmarket riyal rate is a more real free market rate than in many countries with a currency blackmarket.

Local dealers say political upheavals in the past years have pushed the riyal by 100 to 300 either way against the dollar.

Otherwise, the blackmarket rate reflects fundamental valuations and the long-term pressure

Jordan studies new arbitration law

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day Euro-Arab arbitration conference opened in Amman Monday to discuss matters related to settling commercial disputes between Arab and European businessmen.

Justice Minister Rateb Al Wazani, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, delivered the opening address underlining the importance of arbitration in modern trade and its immense assistance to courts of law to settle commercial disputes.

Keen on arbitration to help settle disputes, Jordan joined the World Arbitration Agreement of 1985 and 1987 although national arbitration legislations were issued in 1953.

Providing the necessary vehicle to carry out arbitration procedures in the Kingdom since the enactment of the law on arbitration, courts have been able to settle hundreds of cases, the minister noted.

At present the Justice Ministry is working out a new law on arbitration taking into account



The opening session Monday of the third Euro-Arab arbitration congress in Amman (Petra photo)

new trends in commercial disputes and other important matters connected with trade, the minister added.

Mohammad Asfour, chairman

of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Dr. Burhan Dajani, secretary-general of the Arab Chambers of Industry, Commerce and Agriculture, both delivered speeches at the opening session underlining the importance of arbitration to trade in general and courts in particular and the positive effect of arbitration on international relations.

With the growth of Arab-European commercial relations and trade dealings, importers and exporters find arbitration exceedingly important for settling problems that could crop up between them in the course of commerce, they said.

The participants will discuss arbitration legislation and Western regulations, international laws on arbitration, modern

trends in European legislations in arbitration matters, international commercial laws and other affiliated topics.

Several cabinet members, heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan and representatives of commercial and economic organisations in the Kingdom attended the opening session.

The meeting, which is being attended by 300 delegates from Arab and foreign nations, was organised by the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Following the opening session, which was held at the Royal Cultural Centre, the participants held two sessions dealing with international commercial arbitration and pan-Arab agreements on arbitration.

Singapore trade team seeks Jordanian ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce (SMCC) delegation visited Jordan last week as part of a business trip which covered Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The SMCC Trade and Investment Mission, accompanied by the Singapore Ambassador to Egypt and Jordan comprised small and middle-sized manufacturers, traders and businessmen. The purpose of the delegation's visit was to meet with their Jordanian counterparts in order to establish business contacts and investigate possibilities of partnerships in industrial and commercial investments.

The delegation met with their Jordanian counterparts at the Amman Chamber of Industry and at the Jordan Technology Group where they extended an invitation to participate in four-day international Muslim Food & Technology Exhibition, IMFEX '90, to be held in Singapore in August 1990. In conjunction with the exhibition, a two-day seminar on "Halal" food will be held where eminent personalities from overseas will be invited to speak on various aspects of the topic.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday October 23, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
Buy	Sell	French franc	99.6 100.6
U.S. dollar	627.0 633.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	449.3 444.7
Pound Sterling	997.9 1007.9	Dutch guilder	299.4 302.4
Deutschmark	338.0 341.4	Swedish krona	97.3 98.3
Swiss franc	385.7 389.6	Italian lire (for 100)	45.9 46.4
		Belgian franc (for 10)	160.6 162.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.5885/95	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1725/35	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
2.0960/67	1.8570/77	Swiss francs	Belgian francs
3.9285/95	3.9001/14	French francs	Italian lire
6.3025/75	6.3025/75	Japanese yen	Swedish krona
1363/1364	142.30/40	Norwegian krona	Danish krona
6.4425/75	6.9300/50	U.S. dollars	
7.2260/2310	7.2260/2310		
One ounce of gold	365.70/366.20		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Qintex dominated the market, plunging more than 50 per cent after the bankruptcy filing of its U.S. entertainment affiliate. The All Ordinaries index lost 5.6 points to 1,668.1.

TOKYO — An early rise took the Nikkei index near its record high and caused concern about possible overheating. The index slipped back to close at 35,585.52, a gain of 99.14.

HONG KONG — Strong interest in banking stocks led the market upwards. The Hang Seng index gained 28.22 to 2,732.17.

SINGAPORE — The Straits Times industrials tracked Tokyo and Hong Kong, gaining 19.42 points to 1,365.02.

BOMBAY — Share prices finished higher in moderate trading for the new account aided by technical considerations.

FRANKFURT — West German share prices shrugged off early declines to end virtually unchanged. The DAX 30-share index closed at 1,523.22, just 0.99 points below Friday's close.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly lower in slow trading. The all-share performance index lost three points to 1,145.9.

PARIS — Share prices quickly rebounded from a lower start. The CAC-40 index rose rapidly to 0.24 per cent up by midsession, at 1,869.51.

LONDON — Share prices remained firm in exceptionally quiet trade. At 1533 GMT the FTSE index was 9.8 points up at 2,188.9.

NEW YORK — U.S. blue chips succumbed to profit-taking and fell near the day's lows. The Dow fell about seven to 2683.

Commonwealth endorses equity fund for developing countries

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Commonwealth leaders endorsed Monday an equity fund designed to funnel \$50 to \$100 million of capital from rich nations into stock markets of developing countries in the 49-nation group.

Commonwealth leaders also urged industrialised nations Monday to balance monetary with fiscal policies to ease pressure on interest rates which have raised the debt burden of poor nations and choked economic growth.

They expressed concern that the emergence of regional trade groupings could lead to greater protectionism and that poor nations were not reaping the benefits of current world economic growth.

A lead manager will be appointed to oversee the fund, which will be named "Inicos" issue" after the national flower of Malaysia, host of the week-long summit.

The fund, which had the backing of Commonwealth finance ministers who met in Jamaica last month, received the approval of leaders from Britain and Canada to merge the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations,

1992 and the recent signing of a U.S.-Canada free trade agreement would open rather than close markets.

He said Commonwealth leaders also recognised that high interest rates helped check inflation, but also realised they caused "very great difficulties for developing countries."

"There was a feeling the message had to be broadcast that high interest rates were damaging developing countries' efforts to service debts, grow out of difficulties and so on," he said.

Unwin told reporters after a debate on the world economy that members saw a major role for the private sector in the world economy.

While the leaders did not ask Commonwealth members Britain and Canada to voice their concerns to the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations, to discuss these problems.

Cyprus expands as major shipping centre

NICOSIA (AP) — Cyprus has made a big splash in maritime circles in the past month, achieving a large increase in both its shipping registry and the number of ship-related offshore companies opening offices on the east Mediterranean island.

Scantankers Management Co. Ltd. has announced it registered two additional ships totalling 240,000 tons with the Cyprus flag, and intend to register 12 more vessels totalling 1.6 million tons currently under construction.

In a related development the West German government has also informed the Cyprus government it was extending recognition

to a local marine training school as the only non-German school worldwide to train seamen for vessels under the German flag.

Katsourides said: "The recognition of the school based in Cyprus by the German government is of the tremendous importance."

"These developments are a great vote of confidence and strengthen our determination to make Cyprus one of the largest shipping powers and a major international shipping centre," he added.

This spurt in interest followed last month's staging in Nicosia of the "Maritime Cyprus 1989" conference which attracted more than 850 delegates from ship owning and ship related industries.

The conference marked the launching of a campaign to make Cyprus, with 2,000 ships in its registry, the third largest merchant shipping fleet in the world, no. 1 both in registrations and services offered.

The island's shipping image was given a boost during the conference by C.P. Srivastava, the secretary-general of the International Maritime Organisation.

He said the success of the conference "is a great tribute to Cyprus and a recognition of the fact that Cyprus with its ancient maritime tradition has also become a modern maritime nation.

It is a great combination of a great maritime tradition mingled with excellent facilities today for the conduct of marine business."

Katsourides said following the conference many of the delegates expressed an interest in opening local offices.

He said in the wake of the conference that several ship owners, including Amer Shipping and Intership Agencies of India, also announced they will be transferring their ships to the Cyprus flag.



Peanuts



Sports

European soccer:

Soccer under threat in Netherlands

Reuters

DUTCH soccer, so admired internationally, is in disarray at home after crowd violence took a sinister turn at the weekend.

Leading officials called for domestic fixtures to be suspended for six months after two homemade bombs were hurled into the crowd at Sunday's league game between Ajax Amsterdam and Feyenoord Rotterdam, injuring 14.

Even the skills of experts like Rudi Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard cannot disguise the off-field problems faced by the Dutch authorities.

Police said Monday they were holding two Feyenoord supporters suspected of having thrown the bombs into the packed 70,000-capacity stadium.

Arrests for soccer hooliganism

in the Netherlands have risen by about 30 per cent in the past year and exasperated politicians and sports figures said the violence could spell the end of Dutch professional soccer.

"Unless this problem is solved very quickly, it's over for professional football in the Netherlands," admitted Pim Vermeulen, mayor of the Feyenoord district.

Ajax were banned from European competition for a year after supporters threw iron bars on the pitch during UEFA Cup tie against Austria Vienna less than a month ago.

The national association of supporters' clubs in England, the only country with a worse hooligan reputation than the Netherlands, called for all Dutch clubs to be excluded from European competition, the fate of English sides

since the Heysel disaster four years ago.

In the circumstances, Ajax's 1-1 draw with Feyenoord was a near-inlevance. PSV Eindhoven lost 1-0 to newly-promoted Vitesse Saturday and were replaced on top by Roda JC Kerkrade who drew 1-1 with lowly FC Groningen Sunday.

It Italy, Diego Maradona and

his Napoli side were again the star attractions after beating champions Internazionale 2-0 to banish bad memories of their goleis UEFA Cup draw against Wettingen in Switzerland last week.

Maradona and Brazilian team mate Careca both scored late goals to leave Napoli the league's only unbeaten team.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer; Carroll Righter Foundation

exact to keep your financial affairs from being in a muddle.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some presents to your attachment who now has hurt feelings. Calm down business-wise before you attempt to make any judgements.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) Don't let your outside worries bother you and don't burden your family with them. A restricted plan to add to your assets could easily put you behind the eight ball.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 18) You will need to combine affection and self control to please your loved one. Every expert you know or can contact will now help you in your business affairs.

AQUARIUS: (January 19 to February 17) Try to see friends and acquaintances that have been difficult for you to contact lately. Don't go off on any tangent where money or business are concerned.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) Don't get drawn into an argument brewing between close companions. You will be able to handle basic expenses with good judgement and helpfulness.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Spending too much money socially will find you holding an empty bag. Petty arguments at home now will achieve no good purpose whatever.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Put an important financial matter with an interesting new friend. Business persons will be very helpful to you at this time.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) You are winding up a friendship but you can't help it, so don't be sad. You will have to be

today's child. If your child were born today he or she will be well equipped for learning but is apt to do a lot of fanciful and imaginative day dreaming early in life and will need to have a lot of assistance to keep in focus and heading in the right direction. Attention to diet will be a must as that individual will have a large appetite.

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Hungary declares a 'republic'

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary buried 40 years of Communism and inaugurated Western-style democracy Monday by proclaiming itself a republic on the 33rd anniversary of the 1956 uprising crushed by Soviet tanks.

"This is a prelude to a new historical age," acting head of state Matyas Szuros said in a speech from the balcony of parliament to tens of thousands of cheering Hungarians.

"The Hungarian Republic is going to be an independent, democratic and legal state in which the values of bourgeois democracy and democratic socialism are expressed equally," he said.

The declaration followed a session of parliament last week which purged Hungary's constitution of its Stalinist elements.

The 1949 constitution defined Hungary as a Socialist People's Republic in which the working

class held supreme power and the Communist Party had a leading role.

The Communist Party, which took power by supplanting all its rivals in the late 1940s, disbanded on Oct. 7 and reformed as a Western-style Socialist Party.

Hungary's first multi-party parliamentary elections since 1947 are due to take place by the middle of next year.

Szuros was speaking from a spot where Imre Nagy, who was hanged for treason in 1958 for his role as premier during the uprising, addressed crowds of rebels exactly 33 years before.

Only a year ago, Hungarian

police broke up peaceful attempts to commemorate the 1956 events, then branded officially a "counter-revolution."

Szuros linked the new republic to the aspirations for a "free, democratic Hungary," expressed in the 1956 uprising and the subsequent "National Independence Movement."

The uprising was smashed when Soviet tanks invaded on Nov. 4, 1956 after Nagy had formed a multi-party government and announced Hungarian neutrality.

In the fighting that followed 25,000 people died, 150,000 were injured and 200,000 people emigrated.

Alluding to the 1956 Soviet intervention, Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth said in a televised speech Sunday that Hungary did not have to fear defeat by a foreign power this time. "Our hands are tied," he said.

PARIS (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney met French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement Monday to discuss arms control and what Cheney called "phenomenal" changes in the Eastern Bloc.

U.S. officials said Cheney, starting a three-week tour of Western Europe and Australia, would assure Chevenement that Washington supported France's insistence on keeping its own nuclear arsenal despite progress in talks on reducing conventional forces and strategic nuclear arms.

Cheney cautioned the French and other European allies not to lower their military guard because Moscow had promised to

slash conventional forces facing them.

"We need to be vigilant on Eastern Europe because of the phenomenal change that may be taking place in the world," he told Chevenement at a dinner on Sunday night.

Cheney, who has questioned Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's ability to complete planned economic and political reforms, said Gorbachev's push for steps toward democracy in Hungary and Poland were sparked by military strength in the West, as well as a failure of Communism.

Although France has cooperated more closely with Nord Atlantic Treaty Organization

(NATO) military forces in recent years, Chevenement made clear last week that Paris has no intention of rejoining the 16-nation alliance's integrated military command structure which it left in 1966.

U.S. officials, who asked not to be identified, said Cheney

wanted to visit Paris before attending a NATO nuclear planning group meeting in Portugal Tuesday and Wednesday.

"France is at the forefront of European defence and we value that contribution," said one official.

France, which is modernising its short-range nuclear weapons, says it is the world's third nuclear power.

MOSCOW (AP) — Thousands of people living near a gas pipeline in western Siberia have been evacuated following an explosion and fire in a remote area, Soviet television reported.

In a report from Tobolsk, 1,600

kilometres south east of Moscow, the evening news programme Vremya said Sunday night that the rupture took place on a section of the same pipeline that exploded June 4, killing 607 people in a nearby train.

The report said the pipeline was under repair when the explosion occurred. There were no injuries or deaths reported in the blast in a remote, sparsely populated area.

Vremya said the blast happened when workers tested the line with water.

"When the pipe burst, not only water, but heavy steam which was still left in the pipe exploded from the rupture," the report said.

The blast was seen by experts as a warning that other explosions may occur on the pipeline.

"Executive councils of the Tuva region were forced to evacuate thousands of people from the danger zone along the pipeline," the report said.

According to Vremya, it will be unsafe to resume pumping gas through the pipeline for at least two years.

"We believe that two years at least are needed to bring the pipeline into an operational state," chief engineer V.N. Cherpyskov told Vremya. If the pipeline is reopened too quickly, he said, "the lives of thousands of people who live alongside the pipeline will be threatened."

The June explosion severely crippled the country's gas supply, officials said in July.

The explosion was the second in a row to hit the country's gas supply, officials said in July.

The explosion came under a regional peace plan under which five Central American presidents agreed to disband the contras — based in neighbouring Honduras — by Dec. 8. In exchange, Ortega moved up the election date from 1991 and promised free balloting.

Last year, the United States cut off military aid to the contras, but Washington still gives them non-lethal aid.

Sunday was the last day for Nicaragua's 1.3 million people of voting age to register.

Officials said government troops on Sunday also fought off rebels in Chontales province, 144 kilometres east of Managua. Lt. Marion Rodriguez said 15 rebels attacked the voter registration office, but there were no casualties.

Two other rebel attacks were reported elsewhere Sunday, but no one was reported killed or injured in those attacks either.

Nicaragua's Sandinista government and the contra rebels agreed on March 21 to suspend offensive operations, but talks aimed at a permanent end to their 7-year-old war are at a stalemate and there has been sporadic

fighting.

There was no immediate comment from the contras on Sunday's reports.

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Last year, the United States cut off military aid to the contras, but Washington still gives them non-lethal aid.

On Saturday, President Bush signed a \$9 million aid package designed to support Nicaraguan opposition groups. The 14-party opposition coalition formed for the election has denied any connection to the contra attacks.

Both the Bush administration and contra leaders want to maintain the rebels as a fighting force until the election to make sure Ortega fulfills his pledge.

About 400 people shouting "Allah Akbar" (God is Great) demonstrated in Paris Sunday in favour of wearing the hijab. The demonstration was called by the Islamic Association of France and the Voice of Islam, which organised the demonstrations a few months ago against the Salman Rushdie novel the Satanic Verses.

Women wearing scarves carried banners reading in Arabic and French, "the hijab is our honour."

"The two groups, however, represent only a minority of Muslims in France."

The uprising began in early October at Creil, 60 kilometres north of Paris, when Leila Achour, 15, her sister Fatima, 14, and their friend Samira, 14, all of Tunisian origin, were told by the principal they could not wear the hijab to school.

Senior resistance sources said on condition of not being identified they strongly pressured the United States and key Asian supporters to help them acquire the weapons. More recently the resistance argued the weapons would be vital to an offensive planned to begin immediately after last month's pullout of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea.

The newly acquired weapons are the West German 67mm Armbrust, Sweden's 84mm Carl Gustav, and France's 89mm Lrac, diplomats and resistance sources said.

Both the Armbrust and the Gustav came to the two non-Communist factions through Singapore, while the French weapons provided only to the

Si Phan group came as part of a larger package of weapons from France earlier this year, according to sources.

France has denied shipping weapons to the resistance.

"We receive many weapons... we don't know where they come from or who pays for them. I don't know and I don't want to know," said Dr. Abdul Gaffar, the liberation front's senior military analyst.

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Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega with Kuwait's Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah during a recent visit. Ortega paid to Kuwait.

Managua discusses rebel attacks

MANAGUA (AP) — President Daniel Ortega met in emergency session with his chief security officials after a weekend attack by U.S.-backed rebels in which 18 soldiers were killed, the government said.

The soldiers were ambushed on their way to register for Feb. 25 national elections and the Defense Ministry accused rebels of trying to disrupt voter registration.

Ortega met late Sunday with his brother, Defense Minister Humberto Ortega, and Interior Minister Tomas Borge to consider measures against rebel attacks. It was not immediately clear what those might be.

The ambush late Saturday occurred near Cerro Del Mono, about 233 kilometres north of the capital.

The soldiers were armed "but it was a surprise attack, they fell into an ambush" and could not return fire, said Ronald Marlin, a Defense Ministry spokesman.

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